Preservation of antiques of Adyar Library and Research Centre, Madras

860. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Adyar Library and Research Centre at Madras is reputed to be one of the best on Indology and Orientology in the world and has about 20,000 invaluable palm-leaf ancient manuscripts in about 24 languages on a variety of subjects; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to preserve them safely for posterity and make them available for wide circulation for scholars all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Adyar Library and Research Centre is a non-Government voluntary organisation. The Library claims to possess an extensive collection of books, periodicals and unpublished manuscripts. It is reported to have palm-leaf and paper manuscripts and transcripts numbering about 20,000.

(b) To ensure better preservation, manuscripts are reported to be kept in air-conditioned rooms and as per techniques recomended by the National Archives of India. Further, the Government of India, under the scheme of financial assistance for preservation of manuscripts, has given grants during the last six years to this Library for preservation/printing of manuscripts and also for purchase of equipment. Manuscripts etc. are made available for study to scholars according to the rules of the Library.

Utilisation of Airbus-310 by AI

861. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times dated 25th December, 1986 to the effect that traffic on short routes like Gulf and Africa, for which the newly acquired Air bus, 310 can be profitably used is shrinking and this airbus is not suited on Delhi-Moscow route during winter season; and

(b) whether these factors were over-looked while making a selection for the purchase of the airbus, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Due to restrictions under Extended Range twin engine operations and adverse weather conditions in Moscow and enroute, schedules of some of Air India flights on the Delhi-Moscow route were disrupted. To ensure punctuality, flights to Moscow are now being operated with a Technical halt in Sharjah. Since January, 1987 there have been no delays to Moscow flights. A-310 aircraft, which were primarily acquired to replace the capacity loss due to the phasing out of Boeing 707 aircraft, which had outlived their designed service life, are being operated on the India-Africa, India-Gulf and India-Singapore routes. For the future, operation to Hong Kong are planned.

Education for minorities

862. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria according to which 40 districts had been named as 'Muslim-dominated' in the chapter of

'Education for minorities', in the Action Plan of the New Education Policy;

(b) the names of the States in which Hindus and other non-Muslim communities are respectively in minority; and

(c) what are the names of the districts in these States where the above mentioned communities are respectively considered dominating according to the same criteria and what is the Action Plan for them in each of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) In a paper presented in the Seminar on 'Education of Minorities' organised by the Minorities Commission sizeable educationally backward sections were found to exist among the Muslims. The list of 40 districts was included illustratively on the basis of sizeable Muslim population. The States have been requested to identify such educationally backward sections among other minorities and add to the list of districts. The heading to the Appendix to Chapter XIV on 'Minorities Education' in the Programme of Action was given inadvertently and steps are being taken to change it.

Mushrooming of Sub-standard Medical Colleges in the country

863. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the continuous deterioration in health and medical education in the country and the extent to which the mushrooming of sub-standard medical colleges is responsible for deterioration in the health and medical education; and

(b) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Medical Council of India, a statutory body charged with the responsibility of maintaining standards of medical education in the country has been striving hard to maintain the minimum standards of medical education in the country. However, some medical colleges have been established without the approval of the Medical Council of India. In order to put a stop to the mushrooming of substandard medical colleges, it is proposed to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 making it obligatory to obtain prior permission of the Council/Central Government before opening a new medical college and arming the Council with adequate powers to enforce standards of medical education.

Test-tube Baby in the country

864. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of experiments that have been conducted in the country to produce test-tube babies and what is the percentage of success;

(b) whether before embarking upon the technology, Government have considered the vital issues like medical hazards, effect on the health of women undergoing the experiments and, above all, social and psychological effect involved especially in the Indian society;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to commercialise the technology; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?